

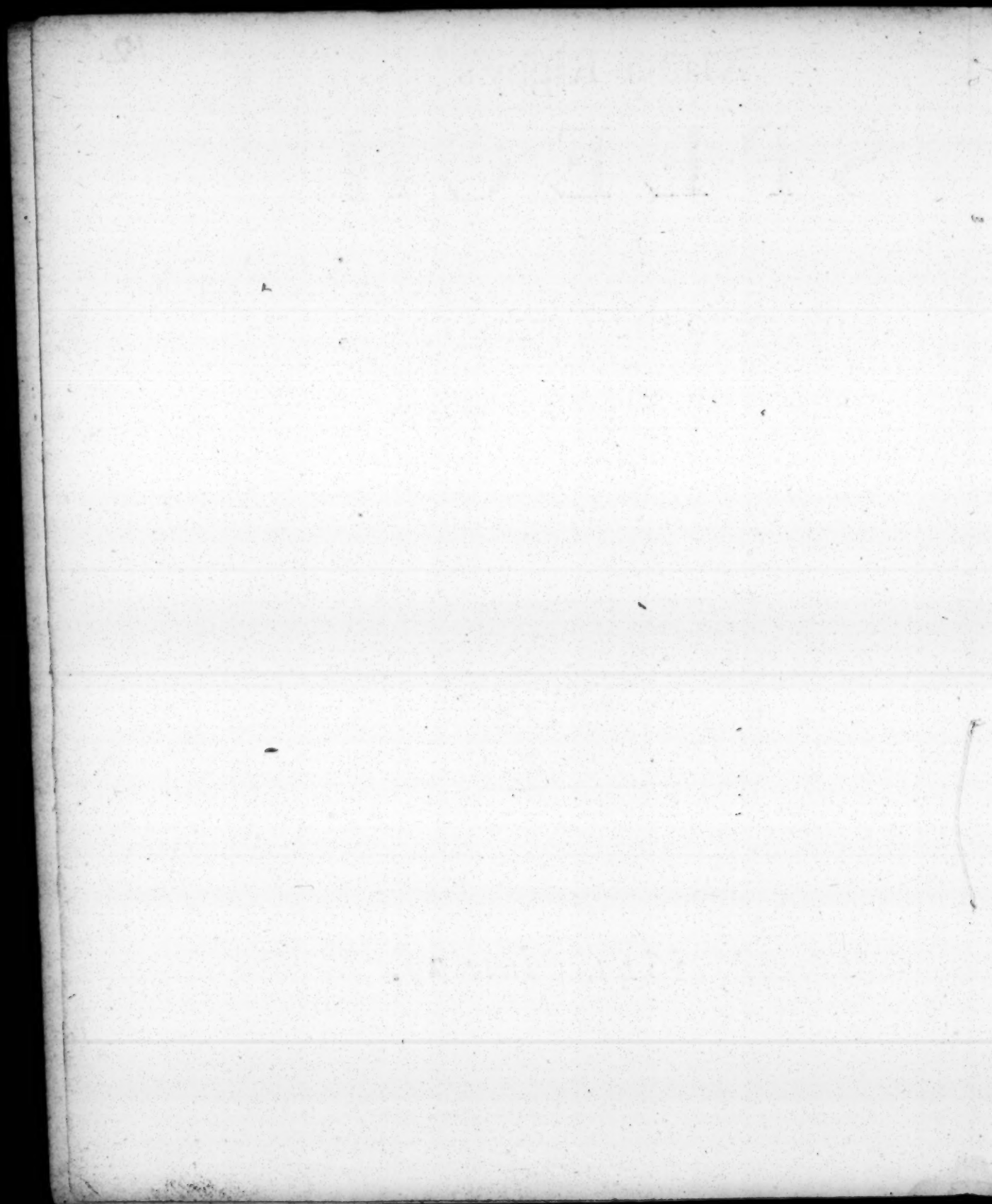
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Master Rigby's

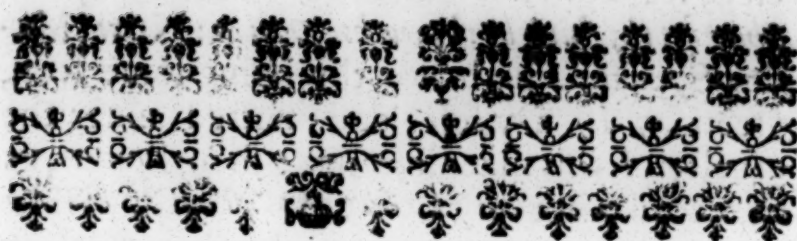
S P E E C H I N

Answer to the Lord F I N C H,
of that he delivered before the House
of Commons, in behalfe of himselfe.



Printed, 1641. June 29.





Master *RIGBYES* answer
TO THE
LORD KEEPERS
SPEECH, in the House of
COMMONS. 1640.

M^r. Speaker,



Y Judgement prompts me to sit still, and to be silent, yet the duty I owe to my King, my Country, and my Conscience, moves me to stand up and speak.

Master Speaker, had not this Siren had so sweet a tongue, surely he could never have effected so much mischief to this Kingdome: you know Sir, *optimorum putrefactio pessima*, the best things putrified, become the worst; and as it is so in the naturall, so it is in the body politick; and what's to be done then, M.Sp. we all know *Ense recidendum est*, the Sword (justice) must strike, *ne Pars sincera trahatur*: M. Speaker, tis not the voyce, *non vox*, *sed votum*, not the tongue, but the heart and actions, that are to be im-

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cted,

cted, for doth not our Saviour Christ say it ?
Shew me thy faith by thy works, O man : Now, Ma-
 ster Speaker, hath not this Kingdome seen,
 (seen say I) nay felt, and smarted under the
 cruelty of this mans injustice ? so malicious, as
 to record it in every Court of *Westminst.* as if he
 had not been contented too with the inflaming
 of us all, unlesse he intayl it to all posterity.
 Why shall I beleeve words now ? *Cum factum*
videam : Shall we be so weak men, that when
 we have been injured and abused, will be gain-
 ed again with fair words and complements ?
 Or like little children, that when we have been
 beaten and whipt, be pleased again with sweet
 meats ? O no, there be some Birds that in the
 Summer of a Parliament, will sing sweetly,
 who in the Winter of Persecution, will, for
 their prey, ravenously fly at all, upon our
 goods, nay seaz upon our persons, and hath it
 not been by this man, so by some in this As-
 sembly.

Master Speaker, it hath been objected unto
 us, that in Judgement we should think of mer-
 cy, and *be you mercifull as your heavenly Father is*
mercifull : now God grant that we may be so,
 and that our hearts and judgements may be
 rightly rectified, to know truly what is mercy,
 I say, to know what is mercy, for there is the
 point, Master Speaker : I have heard of foolish
 pity, foolish pity, do we not all know the ef-
 fects of it ? and I have met with this Epithite
 to

to mercy, *crudelis misericordia*, and in some kinde I think there may be a cruell mercy; I am sure that the Spirit of God sayes; *be ye not pitifull in Judgement*; nay, it saith, *be not pitifull of the poor in Judgement*: if not of the poor, then *a fortiori*, not of the rich, there's the Emphasis, we see, by the set and solemne appointments of our Courts of Justice, what provision the wisdom of our Ancestors hath made for the preservation, honour, and esteeme of Justice; witnesse our frequent Tearmes, Sessions, and Assizes, and in what pomp and state the Judges in the circuits by the Sheriffs, Knights, and Justices, and all the Country are attended oft times for the hanging of a poor thief, for the stealing of a hogge or a sheep, nay, in some cases, for the stealing of a peny, and justly, or *in terrorem*, and now shall not some of them be hanged, that have rob'd us of all our propriety, and sheered at once all our sheep, and all we have away, and would have made us all indeed, a poor *Bellisarius*, to have begged for a half-penny, when they would not have left us one penny that we could have called our own.

Let us therefore, M^r. Speaker, not be so pitifull, as that we become remisse, not so pitifull in judgement, as to have no judgement, but let the deplorable estate of Great *Brittain* now before us, and consider how our most gracious Sovereigne hath been abused, and both his Majesty and all his subjects injured by these

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wicked instruments, for which my humble motion is, that to these particulars we become not so mercifull, as to the generality (the whole Kingdome) we may grow mercilesse.

Fiat Iustitia.



FINIS.

